
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE'S KEIKI CAUCUS TO
CONSULT THE LEGACY COALITION TO FORM A WORKING GROUP TO
DETERMINE HOW THE LEGACY COALITION CAN BEST ASSIST THE
COURTS AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN CHILDREN IN MATTERS RELATING TO
CHILD CUSTODY AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN
REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES.

1 WHEREAS, one of the most vital resources to Native
2 Hawaiians is their children; and
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4 WHEREAS, it has been reported that approximately fifty
5 percent of the foster care cases under the jurisdiction of the
6 Department of Human Services involve Native Hawaiian families;
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9 WHEREAS, the practice of hanai exists within the Native
10 Hawaiian culture to address the foster care of children; and
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12 WHEREAS, various regional groups' kupuna have organized the
13 Legacy Coalition, the fiduciary agent for activities of Na
14 Kupuna O Ka Na'i Aupuni O Hawaii Nei, to represent them as a
15 whole; and
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17 WHEREAS, kupuna groups have assisted in family court
18 matters involving the foster care and hanai of Native Hawaiian
19 children; and
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21 WHEREAS, kupuna groups do not presently have an official
22 role in family court matters involving the foster care and hanai
23 of Native Hawaiian children; and
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25 WHEREAS, the Legacy Coalition has previously assisted
26 family courts, in Hawaii and on the mainland, in matters
27 regarding the foster care and hanai of Native Hawaiian children;
28 and



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2 WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that it is worthwhile to
3 determine how the Legacy Coalition may best assist family courts
4 in matters of the foster care and hanai of Native Hawaiian
5 children; now, therefore,

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7 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
8 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the
9 House of Representatives concurring, that the Hawaii State
10 Legislature's Keiki Caucus, in consultation with the Legacy
11 Coalition, is requested to convene a working group to:

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13 (1) Determine how the Legacy Coalition can best assist the
14 courts and Child Protective Services regarding the
15 placement of Native Hawaiian children who have been
16 removed from their homes;
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18 (2) Determine how the Legacy Coalition can best assist
19 Native Hawaiian children who have been removed from
20 their homes; and
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22 (3) Review the manner in which courts handle child custody
23 cases involving Native Hawaiian children; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group include
26 representatives of various stakeholders, including:

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28 (1) The Office of Hawaiian Affairs;
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30 (2) The Hawaii Foster Parent Association;
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32 (3) The Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition;
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34 (4) The Hawaii Youth Services Network;
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36 (5) The Attorney General, or designee;
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38 (6) Hawaii Community Action Program, Leeward District;
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40 (7) Na Kupuna O Wai'anae;
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42 (8) The Legacy Coalition;



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2 (9) Na Kupuna O Kahana;
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4 (10) Na Kupuna O Kekaha;
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6 (11) Na Kupuna O Maku'u;
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8 (12) Hawaii State Bar Association;
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10 (13) EPIC Ohana;
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12 (14) Partners in Development Foundation;
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14 (15) Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center;
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16 (16) Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs;
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18 (17) Honolulu Police Department, Wai'anae community liaison;
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20 (18) The Director of Human Services, or designee; and
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22 (19) Any other individual or organization the Hawaii State
23 Legislature's Keiki Caucus deems necessary; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Legislature's
26 Keiki Caucus, in consultation with the Legacy Coalition, submit
27 a report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to
28 the convening of the Regular Session of 2016 on the findings and
29 recommendations of the working group; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be terminated
32 upon adjournment sine die of the Regular Session of 2016; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
35 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Chief
36 Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court; Attorney General; Director
37 of Human Services; Office of Hawaiian Affairs; Hawaii Foster
38 Parent Association; Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition; Hawaii Youth
39 Services Network; Hawaii Community Action Program, Leeward
40 District; Na Kupuna O Wai'anae; The Legacy Coalition; Na Kupuna O
41 Kahana; Na Kupuna O Kekaha; Na Kupuna O Maku'u; Hawaii State Bar
42 Association; EPIC Ohana; Partners in Development Foundation;



1 Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center; Association of Hawaiian
2 Civic Clubs; and Honolulu Police Department Wai'anae community
3 liaison.
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